Village Grain Banks for Tribals in Gujarat

4370. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing a Central Scheme called Village Grain Banks for tribals in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds released to the State for the scheme during the last two years, year-wise; and

(d) the number of tribal families benefited in the State therefrom during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) As part of Govt.'s efforts to prevent deaths of children in remote and backward tribal areas due to fall in nutritional standards, a scheme of Village Grain Banks has been launched during 1996-97. The scheme is to be implemented in 369 Blocks of 13 States including Gujarat identified as vulnerable from the point of view of malnutrition/starvation among the tribals. A one time grant towards purchase of grains @ 1 quintal per family, for 100 families of tribals in such areas, storage facilities for the grain and purchase of weights and scales is provided by the Ministry through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) the channelising agency. The Bank will be managed by the Village Committee elected by the beneficiaries themselves, who as members of the banks can borrow grain from the Grain Banks at times of scarcity.

(c) Rs. 17.92 lakhs was released to Gujarat during 1996-97 for setting up 28 village Grain Banks in the vulnerable areas. No funds have been released for 1997-98.

(d) As a preventive measure, 28 Village Grain Banks set up by the State during 1996-97 will benefit about 2800 tribals families at times of scarcity.

Rehabilitation of Disabled

4371. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far to implement Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce special programme/drive for rehabilitation of the physically handicapped, poor and other disabled persons in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Government his formulating a scheme called National Programme for rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. The Scheme is proposed to be a 100% Centrally Sponsored. To field test the scheme, a Pilot Project for setting up 11 District Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs) and 10 State Institutes for Disability Rehabilitation (SIDRs) in 10 States has been formulated to start providing rehabilitation services to the disabled so far uncovered in the rural and remote areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The following measures have been taken for the creation of necessary institutional arrangements and for implementation of the provisions of the Act:

(a) Rules under Section 73(1) and (2) of the Act have been notified.

(b) Central Coordination Committee has been notified vide No. 6-1/96-HW. III dated 21.2.1997 and the first meeting held on 6th November, 1997.

(c) Central Executive Committee has been notified on dated 15/9/97 and the first meeting held on 14th January, 1998.

(d) Five Core Groups of experts and representatives of concerned Ministries were set up to make recommendations and formulate schemes under the Act in the following areas:

(i) Prevention, early detection & intervention;